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TASS ON KISSINGER PRESS CONFERENCE

LI71232 MOSCOW TASS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN RUSSIAN 1205
GMT 17 DEC 72 L

(TEXT) WASHINGTON--THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON NATIONAL SECURITY H. KISSINGER, WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM PARIS, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE DURING WHICH HE MADE A STATEMENT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE TALKS ON ENDING THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE IN VIETNAM. KISSINGER ANNOUNCED THAT DURING THE PARIS TALKS THERE "AROSE DIFFICULTIES," WHICH, IN HIS WORDS, SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY NORTH VIETNAM. IN AN EFFORT TO JUSTIFY YET ANOTHER DELAY BY THE UNITED STATES ON SIGNING THE AGREEMENT, KISSINGER MAINTAINED THAT IN THE COURSE OF THE TALKS "IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE AN AGREEMENT THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD CONSIDER HONORABLE AND JUST."

THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ANNOUNCED THAT THE UNITED STATES "DOES NOT CONSIDER THE NEGOTIATIONS TO BE CONCLUDED." IN HIS WORDS, THE PROSPECTS OF REACHING AGREEMENT "ARE BETTER NOW THAN THEY WERE AT THE END OF OCTOBER." HE ALSO SAID THAT CONTACT WITH HANOI WILL BE MAINTAINED BY MEANS OF AN EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES. "WE WILL THEN BE ABLE TO DECIDE WHETHER AND WHEN TO MEET AGAIN," KISSINGER SAID.

17 DEC 1330Z EH/TM